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NEWS RELEASE

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OHS Announces Results of *Stop Aggressive Driving* Campaign – Over 2,700 Cited for Speeding

Dover – It seems there are a lot of drivers in Delaware with a lead foot. The results of the 2008 “Stop Aggressive Driving” campaign, being announced by the Office of Highway Safety, show that state, county and local law enforcement officers cited 2,737 drivers for speeding – several in excess of 100 mph - during a three month long effort to ‘stop speeding before it stops you.’

Preventing speed-related crashes and fatalities was the focus of this year’s “Stop Aggressive Driving” campaign which OHS and law enforcement launched on July 7th. Enforcement by the Delaware State Police troops statewide, the Dover Police, the New Castle County Police and the Wilmington Police occurred during July, September and October and was accompanied by a multi-faceted public awareness campaign utilizing billboards, television and radio ads.

The good news is that aggressive driving related fatal crashes have declined by 10% so far this year, and there have been 7 fewer speed related fatal crashes compared to this time last year as well. Yet speeding remains second only to DUI as the leading cause of traffic deaths in Delaware according to statewide crash data. Nationally, nearly 13,500 people died in speed-related crashes in 2006.

“We’re pleased that this important safety initiative seems to have had an impact on aggressive driving and speed-related fatal crashes,” said Tricia Roberts, Director of the Office of Highway Safety. “However, our overall traffic fatalities remain far too high which is troubling as we head into the holiday season. We’ll continue to partner with state and local law police agencies on high visibility enforcement through the end of the year in an effort to keep our roads safe and protect innocent lives.” The first of these efforts will come over Thanksgiving weekend

as OHS partners with State Police to target aggressive, impaired and unbelted motorists on the heaviest traveled holiday weekend of the year.

In addition to the campaign's 2,237 speed citations, officers also made 26 aggressive driving arrests which requires officers to spot three traffic violations in a single incident, 8 DUI arrests, 51 criminal arrests, issued 205 seatbelt citations, and 1,658 citations for other traffic violations including individual offenses such as running red lights and stop signs, which are identified aggressive driving behaviors.

For more information on the "Stop Aggressive Driving campaign, visit the Office of Highway Safety website at www.ohs.delaware.gov.

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